

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 4TH SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 4th state Senate District is ensuring Bolton, Glastonbury, Manchester and Marlborough receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$37,200,014
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$768,196
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$1,078,743
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$695,525
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,996,611
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$466,363
Totals	\$42,205,452



Education Initiatives

Expanding Head Start

I worked alongside state Representatives Jack Thompson, Ryan Barry, and Chris Stone to secure funding for a new Head Start center so Manchester can offer centralized, full-day preschool for children of city residents. The estimated total cost of the project is about \$6.8 million; approximately \$4.277 million of that will be paid by the state. There are currently almost 200 children on a waiting list for enrollment in Manchester’s existing Head Start program.

East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School

Students from Glastonbury and surrounding towns will soon benefit from a new East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School facility. The state recently approved an additional \$5 million to assist with the construction. The school offers students a curriculum focusing on science, technology and global studies.

New Schools in Manchester

The General Assembly passed legislation that will provide over \$27.5 million to Manchester to renovate two schools for middle school students. \$4.3 million has been approved for renovating Illing Middle School and \$23.3 million has been approved to renovate Bennet Middle School. While some details are still to be determined, the estimated cost of the two projects is \$43.8 million and this authorization will provide 62% of the total project costs.

A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann

Mary Ann Handley  
State Senator, 4th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:  
[www.senatedems.ct.gov/Handley.html](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Handley.html)



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you’re interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name:

Address:

Town: Zip:

E-mail:



State Senator

Mary Ann Handley

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I’m proud  
to represent the  
4th state  
Senate District  
which includes  
the communities  
of Bolton,  
Glastonbury,  
Manchester and  
Marlborough

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# CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## 2006 Legislative Initiatives

A recent study shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE INCLUDE:

- **ELIMINATING** the manufacturing machinery and equipment property tax to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **INCREASING** jobs by better bridging promising businesses to the university expertise that can help bring innovative products to market
- **TURNING** imagination into jobs through the establishment of a center for entrepreneurship that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop in our state
- **FUNDING** increases for incumbent worker training programs provided by regional workforce development boards
- **CREATING** business incubators to help grow the big ideas of the small businesses that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **CREATING** Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **ESTABLISHING** a pro-active Business Advocate's office that will serve as a clearinghouse of contacts for businesses to access government and other assistance and cut red tape
- **ENCOURAGING** more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut through a scholar-to-work system to foster innovation and creativity to compete in the growing world marketplace
- **ESTABLISHING** a partnership with the business community—so that students will have access to mentors and resources in the economically critical areas of math and science—that will help Connecticut create a better pool of skilled labor for the future of our economy and improve our edge in the intellectual capital of our workforce
- **OFFERING** some of the best tax incentives in the nation to attract digital media and movie companies to film their productions here in Connecticut



STATE SENATOR MARY ANN HANDLEY 4TH DISTRICT



## Working for Connecticut's Future

### Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed new infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.

### Lung Cancer Awareness and Umbilical Cord Blood

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. After speaking with a constituent from Glastonbury about this devastating issue, I authored a new law that designates November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month to increase public awareness about lung cancer and its associated risk factors. The law also establishes a committee to examine the possibility of Connecticut establishing a public umbilical cord blood bank. Umbilical cord blood, rich in stem cells, holds great promise for treating and possibly curing diseases.

### Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, certain insurance companies will be required to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.

### Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).

### Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

### Trafficking in Persons

The story of young women being taken from their native lands and forced into prostitution may sound like a movie plot, but unfortunately it is all too real in our state and across the country. These women are lured to our country by the prospect of a new life only to find that they are just a commodity once they arrive. These women are often forced into prostitution or slave labor with no idea of how to escape. Law enforcement now has a new tool to fight this epidemic by making a new crime of "Trafficking in Persons" a Class B felony.

### Connecticut's Farms

Trumpeting our Connecticut-grown farm products is excellent publicity for our state. We passed legislation that requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a campaign, including television and radio advertisements, to promote the advantages of purchasing these products. In addition, we expanded the types of products that can be sold at farmers' markets. We also provided funding to UConn to expand their Integrated Pest Management program, which promotes pest control through safe and effective methods and is crucial for crop productivity and quality.

### Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

### Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less detrimental impact.



Tragic events in Glastonbury and elsewhere have demonstrated that house parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.



We listened to Connecticut's parents and doctors and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. We passed landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthier choices for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.